

ORIGINAL

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12/06/2016

December 5, 2016

Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Case Number: AF 09-0688

Honorable Members of the Court,

It has come to my attention that you are considering a new Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys. I am appalled that here is another effort to discriminate against Christians. It seems that Christians are more and more becoming targets for those seeking to force them to abandon or compromise deeply held Christian beliefs --- teachers, photographers, wedding planners, bakers, writers and numbers of others. And now you are considering gagging the free speech and religious freedom of lawyers??? I am outraged that this is even being considered. I foresee that there could be a rebellion among the populace against the elected judiciary similar to what happened this last election if the courts continue to press this agenda of discrimination against Christians. You recognize, of course, that most of your support comes from the 3 or 4 major population centers but the sleeping giant in this picture is rural Montana which tends to consist of church-going, conservative people.

I respectfully ask that you reject the new Rule 8.4 of the Professional Rules of Conduct for Montana Attorneys.

With Respect (for the time being)

Ruth D. Maatta



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